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(58) Field of search
UK CL (Edition J) **A4A ALA ALE ALN ALQ ASX, A5X X5E X5X, B8T**
INT CL[4] **A47G, A61J**

(54) **An infants drinking vessel**

(57) An infant's drinking vessel comprises a cup (10) and a push-fit lid (11). The lid includes an upstanding spout (12) with apertures (13). The invention consists of the provision of closure member (15) with a cap (16) which fits tightly over and seals the spout (12), and a strip (18) which seals an aperture (14) in a remote part of the lid (11). The cap (16) preferably includes integrally moulded pegs (17) which can be located into apertures (13) in the spout to close and seal them.

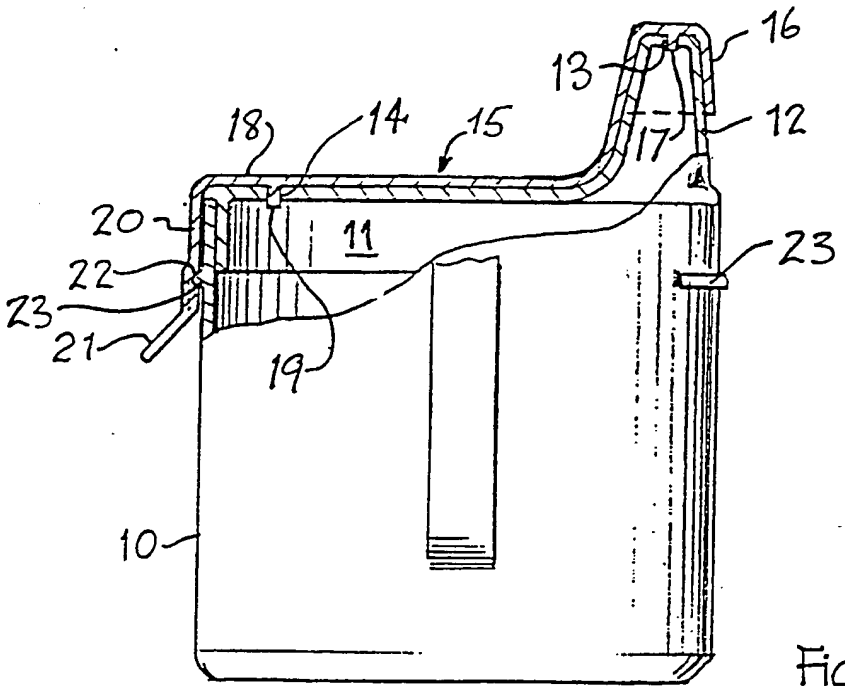

Fig 1

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At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

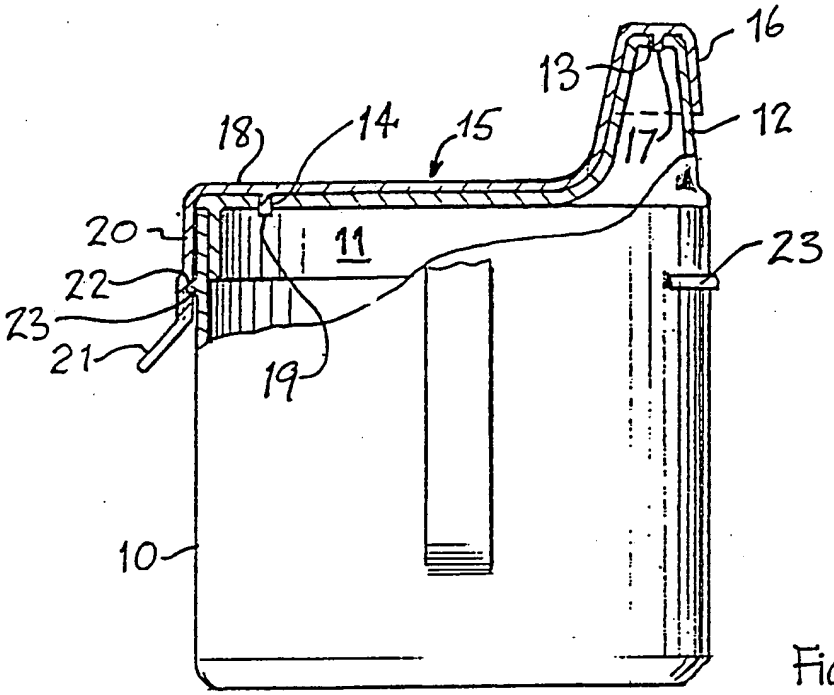
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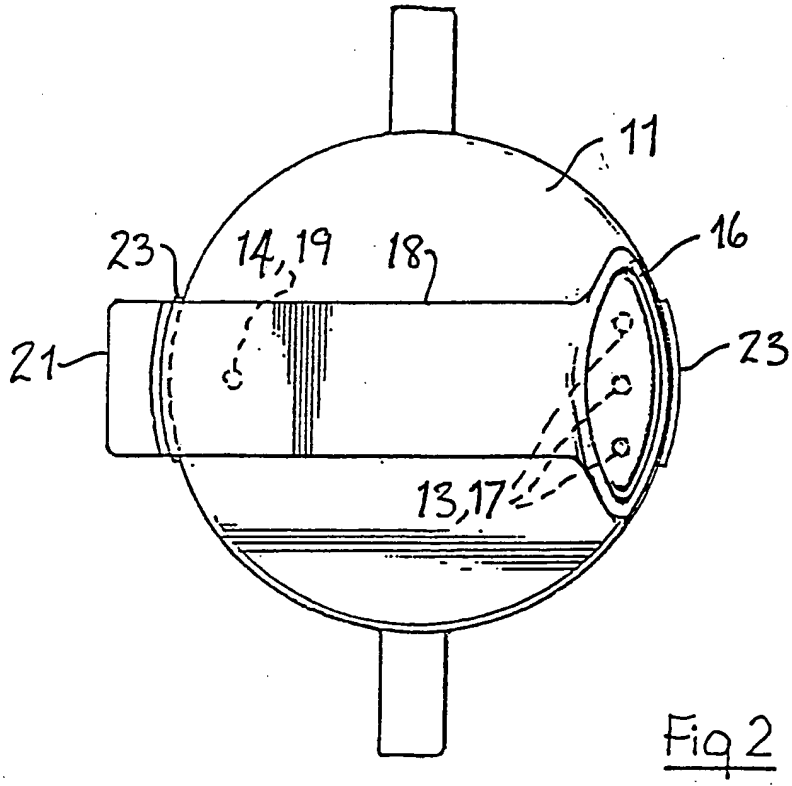
Fig 1


11
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14,19
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21
23
13,17

Fig 2

AN INFANT'S DRINKING VESSEL

THIS INVENTION concerns an infant's drinking vessel of the type having a lid with an upstanding spout, and one or more apertures in the spout for the drawing of liquid from the vessel. Usually, but not necessarily there is also an aperture in a region of the lid remote from the spout so that air may pass into the vessel to ensure a smooth flow of liquid through the spout in use.

A disadvantage of drinking vessels of this kind is that it may be necessary to transport the vessel from place to place whilst still containing liquid, for example on occasions when the entire contents have not been drunk at one time. Movement of the vessel causes liquid to splash out of the apertures especially if accidentally turned onto its side, and it is an object of the present invention to provide a temporary closure means for such vessels which will stay firmly in place until removed to permit further drinking.

According to the present invention, an infant's drinking vessel including a lid with an upstanding spout, and one or more apertures in the spout for the drawing of liquid from the vessel, is characterised by a removable and replaceable closure member adapted to fit on the spout to

close and seal said one or more apertures.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Fig. 1 is a part cross-sectional side elevation of an infant's drinking vessel incorporating the invention;

and Fig. 2 is plan view thereof.

In the embodiment illustrated, the vessel comprises a cup 10 with a lid 11 being a resistance fit thereon. As usual with this kind of vessel the lid has a raised spout 12 which is placed in the infant's mouth when the cup is tilted to permit the liquid contents to flow out of the cup through a row of apertures 13 in the top of the spout. A further aperture 14 is usually provided in a part of the lid 11 remote from the spout, to allow air to pass into the cup as liquid is withdrawn.

In accordance with the invention, there is provided on the vessel a closure member generally indicated at 15 which comprises a flexible plastics cap 16 removably placed over the spout 12 as a friction fit thereon and having integrally moulded pegs 17 which locate within apertures 13 to close and seal same. The closure member 15

extends as an integral strip 18 across the top of the lid 11 and has on its underside a peg 19 which engages within aperture 14 in the lid. The strip further extends at right-angles, to a portion 20 standing against the upper side edge region of the cup at a position diametrically opposite the spout 12. A tab 21 is provided for ease of removal of the closure member when required and it will be seen from Fig. 1 that a groove 22 in the portion 20 close to the tab 21 co-operates with a ridge 23 on the side of the cup. This co-operating groove and ridge formation assists in preventing the closure member 15 from premature removal from the cup. Since the lid 11 may be placed on the cup 10 in any angular position thereon the ridge 23 may be disposed around the entire circumference of the cup or alternatively as shown in Fig. 1 there may be an arcuate ridge in each of two diametrically opposed regions.

The closure member 15 may be placed on the lid when the cup is not in use to prevent spillage of liquid therefrom, and removed with the aid of tab 21 when required. The member is preferably made from a light and flexible material such as polyethylene which can be readily sterilised along with the other parts of the drinking vessel. The pegs 17 and 19 serve to prevent the apertures 13 and 14 from becoming blocked.

It is not intended to limit the invention to the

above example only, many variations of the closure member 15 being possible.

For example, since the pegs 17 and 19 are firmly located within apertures 13 and 14, the additional part 20 of the strip extending down the side of the cup may be omitted in some cases.

Further, in its simplest form the member may consist of the cap 16 alone (with or without pegs) which is arranged to be a sufficiently tight frictional fit on the spout 12 that its premature removal is prevented.

In a further alternative form the member 15, instead of extending across the lid 11 may extend downwardly from cap 16 along the adjacent side of the cup with a portion passing beneath the cup.

In a still further and more simplified form, the closure member may consist of a flat plate with pegs 17 which frictionally engage within apertures 13 to an extent that they cannot be removed prematurely. Where an air hole 14 is provided a similar plate or tab having a peg 19 must be located thereon to prevent spillage.

It will be appreciated that the invention consists of some means for temporarily closing and sealing the otherwise permanently open apertures in the lid, so that

the cup, when partially filled with liquid, may be transported, if necessary on its side, or even upside down, without the liquid being spilled. The actual form and extent of the closure is a matter of preference and design.

CLAIMS

1. An infant's drinking vessel including a lid with an upstanding spout, and one or more apertures in the spout for the drawing of liquid from the vessel, characterised by a removable and replaceable closure member adapted to fit on the spout to close and seal said one or more apertures.

2. An infant's drinking vessel according to Claim 1, wherein said closure member comprises a cap adapted to be placed over the spout as a friction fit thereon.

3. An infant's drinking vessel according to Claim 2, wherein said cap is of a flexible plastics material and includes one or more integrally moulded pegs which locate within said one or more apertures in the spout.

4. An infant's drinking vessel according to Claim 2, wherein said cap has an integral strip including a portion which locates over a remote part of the vessel to retain said cap in place over the spout.

5. An infant's drinking vessel according to Claim 4, wherein said strip extends across the lid of the vessel and has a portion standing against an upper side edge region thereof at a position diametrically opposite the spout, there being a groove and ridge formation between said portion and the vessel to assist in preventing the closure

member from premature removal.

6. An infant's drinking vessel according to any preceding claim, wherein the closure member includes a tab for ease of removal from the vessel.

7. An infant's drinking vessel according to Claim 4, wherein said integral strip includes a peg for engagement within a further aperture in the lid at a position remote from said spout.

8. An infant's drinking vessel according to any preceding claim, wherein said closure member is made from polyethylene.

9. An infant's drinking vessel substantially as hereinbefore described, with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

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